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Political Forces Rehind Major Humberto P. Willelts 25X1A6a

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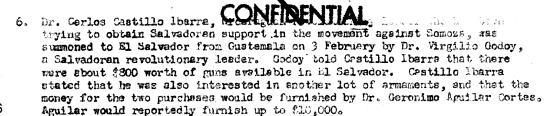
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- During recent weeks Major Humberto Willelts, placed under house arrest when Mejor Osorio had him removed from the Salvadoran governing junta, has been the object of growing political favor among student groups, labor groups, the Supreme Court of Justice, and foreign revolutioneries,
- 2. Opinion Estudientil, a weekly publication of the University students, suspended during the regime of President Castaneda, resumed activity immediately after the becember coup dietat and supported the revolutionary government until Willelta's removal as Chief of the Armed Forces on 17 January. As of that date, the newspaper was again suspended in protest against Osorio's action. Beginning 31 January, publication commenced again, with the editorial tone one of frank opposition to the government, and support for the cause of Willelta. Two thousand copies of the 31 January issue were sent to the Union de Trabejadores Ferrocarrileros (UTF), the vanguard of organized labor, and distributed by that organization to its members throughout the country. Ulises Flores, Amilcar Martinez, Abelardo Torres, and Jorge Arias Gomez, student leaders of the pro-Villaite faction; are reportedly mobilizing the students to oppose the junta at mass public demonstrations.
- 3. On 31 January, the Comite de Reorganización Obrera (CRO) met and decided to support Willelte and to join with the students in organizing demonstrations.
- 4. A student of Economy at the National University named Antonio Monterrose was exiled to Honduras because he approached Lt. Col. Adan Parada, Commander of the 1st Infantry Regiment and tried to convince him that he should support Millalta. Monterrosa is ex-President of the Union de Empleados de Comercio.
- 5. Willelta has asked for and received the protection of the Supreme Court of Justice. The court named Judge Alfredo Vigil to request the junta to justify its actions in the abuse of Villalta and to withdraw the house muard from his property. According to source, the members of the Supreme Court would resign en masse in the event of any further action of repression against Villelta, thus creating another government crisis.

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- 7. Castille Iberra was believed to be undecided whether to offer the sums to Villelta's military-civilian coalition, or use them in favor of the Osorio forces.\*
- 8. A Salvedoran newspaperman and radio commentator, Joaquin Castro Cenizeles, known as Quino Caso, visited Villelta on 26 Jenuary and subsequently broadcast that special considerations prevented him from making any announcement in regard to a very important matter of public interest. According to source, Manuel Sevilla, a Honduran exile and collaborator of Quino Caso on the newspaper Tribuna Libra, stated that in visiting Villalta, Quino Caso was representing Major Osorio. The purpose of the visit was to offer Villalta Osorio's guarantee that he would be allowed to stay in the country free from government persecution as long as he remained aloof from politics and cassed his oppositionist activities. Sevilla said that Quino, who is a Villalta partisan, accepted the commission from Osoric only after refusing to make any proposition to Villalta which involved his leaving the country. Villalta reportedly refused to give up the fight.

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Comment. President Arevalo of Guatemala is strongly suspected of materially aiding Villalta's cause against Osorio. Since Castillo Ibarra is very close to Arevalo, it is possible that Castillo Ibarra is acting as a direct agent of Arevalo with a view to stirring up trouble in Fl Salvador.

